(b) whether Government has received any proposal from Himachal Pradesh to set up new DD and AIR stations/centres in the State;

(c) if so, the action taken by Government thereon;

(d) whether Government proposes to set up new DD/AIR stations and expand the capacity of existing stations in the country, particularly in Himachal Pradesh where signals do not work due to geographical condition of the State;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) by when these stations/centres are likely to be set up and the capacity of existing DD/AIR stations is likely to be expanded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN): (a) Presently, 232 AIR Stations are functioning in the country. Out of which 6 AIR Stations are functioning in Himachal Pradesh. As regards DD, there are 66 studio centres and 1415 transmitters in their network. Out of these, one studio centre and 54 transmitters are located in Himachal Pradesh.

(b) and (c) So far as proposal received from Himachal Pradesh in respect of AIR is concerned, Low power (100 watts) FM Relay Transmitters have been installed at Bilaspur Town, Berthein Mandi, Sundernagar, Manali, Keylog and Rampur, Bhramour, Chauri Khas, Chamba. As regards DD, no such proposal has been received from Himachal Pradesh in recent past.

(d) to (f) The areas uncovered by terrestrial transmission along with rest of the country have been provided with multi-channel TV coverage through Doordarshan's free to air DTH service "DD Direct Plus". DTH signals can be received in the entire country including Himachal Pradesh (except Andaman & Nicobar Islands) with help of a small sized dish receive units. New DD transmitters are not contemplated now. As regards AIR, 11th Plan proposals have not yet been finalized.

Electronic media on crime and domestic issues

922. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for silence and inaction in the matter of news and views expressed by various electronic media on crime and domestic issues in various States; and

(b) the existing regulatory mechanism to monitor TV serial programmes which are against the established norms and practice of Indian culture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) All the private satellite Television channels are required to adhere to the Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and the rules framed thereunder. Whenever any violation is brought to the notice, the Ministry examines the matter and appropriate action is taken as per Rules.

(b) The Government has constituted an Inter Ministerial Committee (IMC) to look into the specific violation of the Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act 1995 and rules framed thereunder. The IMC either *suo motu* or on receipt of complaints looks into the violations and thereafter gives its recommendations to the Government, based on which action is taken as per rules.

Foreign media agencies

†923.SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the major media agencies are receiving foreign assistance, are owned controlled and operated from abroad with their head quarters being located abroad; and

(b) the details of the print and the electronic media in the above said categories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) and (b) In the print media sector, the operation of foreign news agencies in India is governed by the Cabinet Decision of 1956, according to which communication facilities can be granted only where the distribution of news within the country is to be effected through an Indian news agency, owned and managed by Indians, which would have full and final authority in the selection of foreign news for distribution and which would also be in a position to supply Indian news, in reasonable volume, to the foreign news agencies with whom they have a working arrangement. The Government have no control in managing day-to-day affairs of news agencies, as these are companies registered under the Companies Act. 1956 and operate in the private sector.

As regards Broadcasting Sector, no media agency with foreign assistance is registered. As per the down-linking guidelines only those TV channels can be carried in the cable service, which are registered with the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. However, they are not Media Agencies.

Legislation for visual media

924. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to enact a legislation for monitoring of the visual media;

(b) whether there is also any proposal to establish independent regulatory mechanism for monitoring of the visual media; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi